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Identical letters dated 14 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

At 0355 hours on Saturday, 14 April 2018, in a flagrant violation of the principles of international law and the provisions and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, the United States, Britain and France carried out a treacherous and brazen attack against the Syrian Arab Republic when they launched approximately 110 missiles at the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic, including the capital Damascus and other Syrian cities and areas.

In response to this unjust attack, the Syrian Arab Republic exercised its legitimate right of self-defence to repulse the criminal aggression. Syrian air defence systems were activated against the missiles of this tripartite attack. However, some of the incoming missiles managed to hit a building that is part of the Scientific Research Centre in the Barzah neighbourhood of the capital Damascus and which houses an education centre and scientific laboratories. Losses were restricted to material damages. Missiles aimed at a military site near the city of Homs had their trajectories diverted. The explosion of one of those missiles resulted in injury to three civilians.

The Syrian Arab Republic condemns the tripartite United States, British and French attack against it in the strongest possible terms. The attack yet again demonstrates what can only be explained as a reckless disregard for international legitimacy on the part of those States, even as they blather on about international legitimacy repeatedly and dishonestly. It demonstrates that those States believe only in the law of the jungle and the logic of power, even as they occupy permanent seats on the body to which the Member States of the United Nations have entrusted primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and the prevention and suppression of acts of aggression in accordance with the principles and purposes of the Organization's Charter.

This attack by these arrogant hegemonic Western regimes stems from the frustration felt by those States and their clients in the region in the wake of the failure of their conspiratorial enterprise directed against Syria. It comes in response to the defeat of the terrorist groups who are those regimes' proxies in the wake of the

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progress being achieved by the Syrian Arab Army in eastern Ghutah and other parts of Syrian territory.

This attack was timed to coincide with the arrival in Syria of a fact-finding mission from the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). That mission is coming to Syria at the request of the Syrian State, which will be greatly facilitating its work as it investigates the alleged chemical attack in Duma. The missile attack was intended to undermine, pre-empt and pressure that mission in an attempt to provide cover for the lies and fabrications of the regimes that perpetrated the attack and prevent them from being exposed.

The Syrian Arab Republic calls on the international community and the Security Council to resolutely condemn this attack, which will only inflame tensions in the region and the world, and which constitutes a threat to overall international peace and security.

This brutal and treacherous attack has been met with high morale on the part of the Syrian people, who have come out into the streets and public squares to condemn it. The attack will have no effect whatsoever on the resolve and determination of the Syrian people and their courageous Army to hunt down the remnants of takfirist terrorism and the remaining gangs of foreign terrorist fighters until all parts of the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic are liberated; to defend the sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of Syria; and to restore security and stability to all corners of the country.

I should be grateful if this letter could be issued as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative